HON'BLE MR. K. M KORAH : ഇതുവരെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽപ്പെട്ടിട്ടില്ല. ശ്രദ്ധയിൽപ്പെടുത്തിയാൽ വേണ്ടതു ചെയ്യാം.

MRS. DEVAKI GOPIDAS : എന്നാൽ അങ്ങനെ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നുണ്ടെന്ന് ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ ധരിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. ABDUL AZIZ (*Trivandrum I—Muslim*) : ബാർജുകളിൽ അരി കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നുവെന്ന വ്യാജേന പെട്രോൾ വാങ്ങി ബ്ലാക്കുമാർക്കറ്റിൽ വിറ്റിട്ട് വള്ളങ്ങളിൽ അരികൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതായി ഗവണ്മെൻറിനറിയാമോ?

HON'BLE MR. K. M. KORAH : അങ്ങിനെ ഇതുവരെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽപ്പെട്ടിട്ടില്ല. അതെങ്കിലും ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽപ്പെടുത്തിയാൽ വേണ്ടതു് ചെയ്യുന്നതാണ്.

Paddy commandeering.

526. MR. D. PONNIAH (*Agastheeswaram—Paraya Reserved*): Will the Hon'ble Minister for Food be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there is any intention of making paddy procurement in 1124;

(*b*) what is the probable limit of the extend of holding so that paddy will not be procured from holders thereof;

(*c*) whether there is any intention of procuring paddy from those who cultivate lands on lease;

(*d*) at what rate per acre will the procurement be made?

HON'BLE MR. K. M. KORAH : ഇതു സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള ഗവണ്മെൻറ നയം ഇന്നലെ വിശദമാക്കി. അതു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെമ്പറന്മാർ മനസ്സിലാക്കിക്കാണുമെന്നു ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. ഇതുസംബന്ധിച്ചു ഒരു സ്റ്റേറ്റുമെൻറ് പുറപ്പെടുവിച്ചാൽകൊള്ളാമെന്നുണ്ടു്.

MR. MOHAMMED MUSTAFA (*Pathanapuram—Muslim*): കപ്പാസ്റ്റ്യൽ ട്ടെമിൽ സ്റ്റേറ്റുമെൻറാകാമോ?

MR. PRESIDENT : ധാരാളമാകാം.

HON'BLE MR. K. M. KORAH : This is what I want to inform the House on the food position.

In introducing the budget for the year 1124 M. E., the Prime Minister had stated that the Government's plan to adopt a policy of partial and cautious decontrol of foodgrains would have to be considered in relation to the All-India policy of the Central Government in this regard before a final decision could be taken, and that provided there was no variance with the Central Government's plan Government were considering the possibility of introducing with proper safeguards in certain taluks in the State. Since then, intimation has been received from the Ministry of Food, Government of

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[Hon'ble Mr. K. M. Korah]

India that, they had noticed with anxiety the recent rise in prices of foodgrains in areas which are surplus or approximately selfsufficient. They stated that though the rate of imports so far had been fairly satisfactory, the total quantity which they could import was limited and would, therefore, prevent them from giving Provinces and States assistance to the full extent required to counter the tendency towards rise in prices. The Government of India, therefore, suggested that they should be consulted in advance about any important changes that deficit units might contemplate in their present rationing arrangements and procurement policy.

2. As already stated in the budget speech, the first and foremost condition which had to be fulfilled before the proposed scheme of zonal decontrol and derationing could be introduced was to obtain an additional quota of 40,000 tons of rice to the State to meet the requirements of the population for the remaining months of the year 1948. Being a heavily deficit area, the introduction of even zonal decontrol would not in any way reduce the overall deficit in the State. The existing scale of 8 ounces ration is itself very low and the balance quota of foodgrains due to the State for the year 1948 would not be sufficient to carry on rationing even at this level without a breakdown: not to speak of raising the size of the ration. No final reply has so far been received from the Government of India to the request made to them to supply this additional quota. On the other hand, the Government of India have pointed out that the supply position is becoming more and more difficult and that they are finding it not possible even to complete the existing quota allotted to deficit units. Without obtaining this additional supply, it will be very unsafe to embark on a policy of even zonal decontrol and derationing in the State.

3. Another point for consideration is the rapid deterioration in the food position in other areas owing to the steep rise in grain prices following decontrol. The recent debate in the Madras Assembly on the food situation in the Province, the review of the economic position in the country by Sir C. D. Deshmukh, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, and the discussion in the Dominion Parliament about the mounting cost of living are clear indications of the grave concern felt about the rise in the price of foodgrains and other necessary commodities. Hopes entertained at the time of decontrol that hidden and hoarded stocks would make their way into the open market have not materialised. On the other hand, with the lifting of controls, prices have soared considerably and at the present moment the price of foodgrains in derationed areas have registered an increase varying between 200 to 300 per cent of the price fixed by the respective Governments when control was in operation. The most important step taken by the Provinces to check the rise

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in price of foodgrains was the opening of adequate number of relief shops wherefrom stipulated quantities of foodgrains are distributed at controlled prices. Even though the number of relief shops functioning in the derationed areas of adjoining Madras Province is almost equal to the number of ration shops which were in existence prior to decontrol, it is stated that there is no tendency for the prices to come down. Some of the deficit units, it is understood, are even seriously contemplating the re-imposition of controls with greater rigour.

4. In the light of the above facts, opportunity was taken of the presence of the Regional Food Commissioner, Madras, in the capital, to discuss this question with him. The Regional Food Commissioner stated that the effects of decontrol and derationing even in surplus areas had been far satisfactory and that great caution was, therefore, necessary before this Government enbarked on any policy of derationing and decontrol in the State, especially as Travancore was a heavily deficit area in food grains. In view of the uncertainties pointed out above and in view of the fact that it would be unwise at this juncture to experiment with a food policy whose implementation elsewhere in India has produced only very adverse results, Government have decided that the proposed scheme of zonal decontrol and derationing in selected taluks in the State may wait till conditions show material improvement and till the Government of India lay down their definite food policy in the light of experience of the working of decontrol and derationing in other areas so far.

Chitralayam.

527. MR. SREE V. DAS (*Kalkulam I—Hindu Nadar*): Will the Hon'ble Minister answer the following questions?

(*a*) what is the educational qualification of the officer in charge of the Sree Chitralayam?

(*b*) what special qualifications has he in respect of drawing and painting.

HON'BLE MR. T. M. VARGHESE: (*a*) The Officer has studied up to the Sixth Form.

(*b*) He underwent his preliminary course in painting with Mr. A. P. Banerjee at Adyar, Madras.

He has also undergone training under Mr. R. N. Chakravarti at the Andhra Jaiteeya Kalasala, Masulipatam, Mr. D. P. Roy Chowdry, Principal, School of Arts, Madras, and Mr. Nandalal Bose. He underwent final studies under Mr. Abanindranatha Tagore.

Fish culture pond.

528. MR. E. BHASKARAN (*Karunagapally I—Araya*): Will the Hon'ble Minister for Post War Reconstruction be pleased to state:

(*a*) what is the total area of the fish culture pond which has been started at Ayiramthengu;

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